

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The City of New Haven would like to offer its strong **support** to **HB 5401** – An Act Concerning the Exclusion of a Child's Name in Documents Relating to a Summary Process Action.

Through no fault of their own, many children – too many – face eviction as their parents experience housing instability. Whether by accident or an attempt to be thorough, some landlords unnecessarily include the names of these children in posted notices to quit and other legal actions, entering them into the formal legal record and eventual searchable databases. Years later, when applying for college loans, or housing, these evictions can come back to wreck a person's credit or housing history.

The proposed bill, HB 5401, would stop landlords and their attorneys from including the names of minors in these notices, without hampering their ability to draft an effective notice to quit. Included in this statute, as currently drafted, is a provision that allows a landlord to post a notice without identifying information – either as “John/Jane Doe” or, as we would suggest in these incidents, adding “& Child” after an adult resident's name. We respect the needs of property owners to manage their units, but we should not allow those needs to tarnish a child's credit or standing later in life.

Legal responsibility for a parent's financial situation should never fall on a child. We urge you to **support** HB 5401. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Michael Harris

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